



# Branson Briefs

*A monthly e-Newsletter for the community providing information about upcoming activities, projects and events in the city of Branson*

**Volume I, Issue 8**

## City of Branson

110 W. Maddux  
Branson, MO 65616

417-334-3345

417-334-6095 fax

[www.bransonmo.gov](http://www.bransonmo.gov)

## Hours

8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Monday – Friday

## Mayor

Raeanne Presley

## Board of Aldermen

Stan Barker

Cris Bohinc

Rick Davis

Stephen Marshall

Bob Simmons

Sandra Williams

## City Administrator

Dean Kruithof

## Board of Aldermen meeting schedule

2nd & 4th Tuesday  
of each month

7 p.m.

Council Chambers  
City Hall

**City offices will be  
closed Monday,  
September 7 in  
observance of Labor  
Day**



## Tax revenues rise in June

The city got a slight increase in sales and tourism tax revenues for June. The sales tax was up 0.3% in June compared to June of 2008. And for the fiscal year October – September, sales tax revenue is up 1.4%. The tourism tax in June jumped 3.5% over June 2008, but for the fiscal year, the tourism tax remains down 4.6% from the same time last year.

Starting January 2010, the city will go to a calendar year budget instead of the current fiscal year, October to September.

## FEMA says Branson Landing basements safe

FEMA officials who inspected Branson Landing on August 14 have said the basements on the west side of the retail development may not need to meet the more stringent floodplain regulations and appear to be reasonably safe from flooding. The FEMA visit came five months after a former city employee told city aldermen that the basements under two Branson Landing buildings were prone to flooding because the city failed to enforce floodplain regulations on them.

City officials said the two buildings are outside the flood zone because of the fill that had elevated the west side of Branson Landing above the 100-year flood level. After the on-site inspection, FEMA officials agreed the buildings appear to be in compliance with FEMA rules.

## Next Citizens Academy begins September 17

Branson residents can learn more about the workings of city government, its projects and its goals by signing up for Branson's Citizens Academy. The Academy is an eight-week session designed to provide citizens with a close up view of all facets of city government.

**The Academy is set to begin Thursday, September 17 at Branson City Hall** and continue each Thursday night through October 29. The sessions will run from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The last session will be on Tuesday, November 10, which is a regular Board of Aldermen meeting, and the participants will receive Certificates of Achievement from the Mayor and Board of Aldermen.

For more information on the Academy and to sign up, contact Jerry Adams,

Public Information Director, at 337-8526 or e-mail him at [jadams@bransonmo.gov](mailto:jadams@bransonmo.gov).

The city's first Citizens Academy started in June and finished in August when participants were recognized and received Certificates of Achievement from Mayor Raeanne Presley at the Board of Aldermen meeting August 11.

Citizens Academy classes are now organized in the spring and fall each year, and applications are accepted year-round.



*Graduates of the Branson Citizens Academy who received their Certificates of Achievement at the August 11 Board of Aldermen meeting.*

## Citizens' Service Request Line

If you need a question answered about the city, or need to report a problem or express a concern, contact the Citizens' Service Request line at 337-8502. The line is open 24/7 and the city will respond to your request within five working days.

You can also e-mail a request from the city of Branson website [www.bransonmo.gov](http://www.bransonmo.gov).

In 2008, the city received and responded to 179 citizen requests.

Branson firefighters will be at the intersection of MO. Highway 76 and U.S. 65 Labor Day weekend to "fill the boot" for the Muscular Dystrophy Association annual telethon. Watch for them and help "fill the boot" with your dollars for MDA.

**Liquor education classes Sep 17**  
The next city sponsored liquor education classes will be held Sep. 17 at 9:30 a.m. at Branson City Hall. These classes are for servers and sellers of alcohol. The training is required of all businesses selling liquor in the city of Branson or businesses that are in the process of obtaining a liquor license.

## Sidewalk improvements along Hwy 76



Nearly 400 sidewalk ramps along West Highway 76 are being constructed by the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) to bring them into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Funds for this project are being provided through the economic stimulus package. Most of the work is being done during the overnight hours to accommodate traffic along Highway 76. All the wheelchair ramps should be completed in November.

## City replacing water meters

The public works department will begin replacing 85 residential and commercial customer water meters. The city wants to eventually replace all water meters with new ones that can be adaptable to an electronic reading system, which will give a more accurate measure of water usage.

## Recycle center now charging for monitors

The Branson Recycle Center on Compton Drive has started charging to accept televisions and computer monitors. The fee is \$20 per TV and monitor. Other computer components like keyboards and towers can still be dropped off at no charge. The company that hauls away the TVs and monitors from the recycle center began charging the city \$20 per unit, and that cost has been passed on to citizens.



## Recycle bins in downtown Branson

The Downtown Branson Main Street Association has agreed to a pilot project with the city to place six "plastic only" recycle bins beside regular trash receptacles near the intersection of Main and Commercial. The bins were given to the city by Silver Dollar City. While city crews empty the recycle bins, city officials are encouraging downtown businesses to "adopt-a-recycle bin" to regularly empty them, and the business in turn would get a sign on the bin promoting their environmental efforts.

## Safely disposing of household chemicals

Did you know the average household has 115 pounds of household chemicals at their residence? Things like household cleaners, old paint, batteries, used motor oil, etc. It is unlawful to place poisonous or harmful products in with regular trash where it could harm solid waste workers or the environment if it leaches from the landfill, and NEVER pour anything but clean water into a nearby storm drain. All curbside storm drains go straight to the nearest lake or stream.

Branson provides a Household Hazardous Waste Facility, conveniently located next to the Recycle Center at 601 Compton Drive. It's open Tuesday through Saturday 8 a.m.-noon plus Thursday 4-6. Go to [www.bransonmo.gov](http://www.bransonmo.gov) for more information. The service is free to residents of Taney County.

## Open burning rules for residents

Fall is almost here and that usually provides for the need to clean-up the yard. In the city, residents can burn leaves and small timber (under 2" in diameter) in a pile that is 5x5x5 feet in size when wind conditions are less than 10 mph. Open burning can only take place from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., and the burn pile must be at least 25 feet from any structure. The burn pile must always be attended with fire control resources like a rake, shovel and/or hose.

Remember, the best alternative to open burning is to take your yard waste to the Meadows Wastewater Treatment Plant on Fall Creek Rd where it can be recycled into mulch.



**Another hiking trail has been completed** and opened by the city for the natural enjoyment of residents and visitors. The "roughed in" 2/3 mile Woods Trail winds from Roark Valley Road next to the entrance of The Woods development westward to a natural waterfall. Eventually, the city plans extending the Woods Trail westward to connect with the Henning State Park along Missouri Highway 76.





# Branson Citizens Academy

Sign up now to participate in the next Branson Citizens Academy that begins Thursday evening, September 17. The eight session program gives citizens experiences with all facets of city government. Contact Jerry Adams at 337-8526 or e-mail [jadams@bransonmo.gov](mailto:jadams@bransonmo.gov).

## ***Branson Mayor gets Missourian Award***



Branson Mayor Raeanne Presley will be presented with the 2009 Missourian Award at a black tie ceremony on Saturday, September 26 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City, Mo. Presented by the American Heart Association, the Missourian Award is given annually to nominees who have made an outstanding contribution to their state or nation in civics, business, education, politics or the arts. Mayor Presley will become part of a long legacy of honorees who have contributed to the betterment of their communities.

Governor Jay Nixon is the Honorary Chairman of the Missourian Award.

Thirteen men and women will be honored this year at the 16th annual awards banquet. Proceeds for this annual event are to benefit the American Heart Association.

Elected in 2007, Ms. Presley is serving her second term as Branson Mayor. She has over 30 years experience in the travel industry and is the immediate past chairman of the Missouri Tourism Commission. She has also served on several local and regional civic and non-profit boards.

## ***City employees help neighbors on Caring Day***



Twenty city of Branson employees joined other volunteers from businesses throughout the Tri-lakes Area to participate in the 12th annual Community Caring Day August 18.

The volunteers were excused from their normal jobs to spend an entire day working on projects at area non-profit organizations. These are labor-intensive projects that might not otherwise get completed because of a lack of funding or manpower or both.

Most city employees spent the day at the Women's Crisis Center painting, repairing screens, and cleaning up the property.

## ***Dog days at RecPlex***

***On Monday, September 7, the Branson RecPlex will be hosting the first annual "Doggie Dive-In." All pet owners are welcome to bring their four-legged friends for a dip in the swimming pool. Donations like leashes, food, collars, pet toys, etc will be accepted for the Taney County Animal Shelter.***

